## WHO BRIAREUS WAS

A Marised Version of Some Tales of Cla Mythology.

Briareus was as much of a freak as Pan; in some respects more so.

The question has often occupied my mind:
Which would have commanded the higher salary in the dime museum of the present

day?

Perhaps Pan would have kept in the lead, for there was only one of him, and it would have been very difficult to make another. Freaks with goats' horns, legs and hoofs san't be produced every day, even in this age of invention and scientific attainment.

While there was only one Pan, Briareus had two brothers as picturesque in appearance as himself. This would operate against him in the freak market, for the duplication of a curiosity seriously impairs its value.

That is what has ruined the business of the glass-exter, and made bridge jumpers as cheap as dirt.

what the people cry for is a great original and only curiosity—an honest New York alderman, for instance.

Notwithstanding the duplication of Briarma' charms in the person of his brethren, he was an attraction which would have been worth at least \$500 a week, with the privilege of selling his photograph to spectators.

This choice specimen of the effete past possessed fifty heads and a hundred arms.

It was well for Briareus that in his day it was the custom to wear a full beard, and that cutting the hair to a civilized abbreviation was not necessary to admission into good society.

Think of a man with fifty heads going into a crowded barber shop on Saturday night for a hair-out and shave!

hair-cut and shave!

And think how the other men, with faces rescood with beards of from two to seven days' sanding, would even wish themselves dead then they found Briareus sheed of them! when they found Briareus ahead of them!
Priends and fellow-citizens, they would rise
as one man and dynamite him.
His arms would be more useful.

His arms would be more useful.

How quickly a man could dress in the morning if he had one pair of arms with which to pull on his boots, while a second set was engaged in sewing a suspender button on his trousers! Another pair of arms sould be engaged in pulling down his vest; a fourth pair at the same time could be reaching under the bureau coaxing a coy collarbutton from its retirement; a fifth pair could be occupied in combing his hair, while other sets could arrange his neckwear, brush his be occupied in combing his hair, while other sets could arrange his neckwear, brush his hair and stand around ready to make them-

A woman would find fifty pairs of arms more useful still while dressing. They could in a large measure relieve the mouth from holding pins, hair and other miscellaneous

But in the days when Briareus was a prominent citizen no one wore boots, vests and collars, and so there was a lamentable waste of arms in Briareus' case, or rather on his body. How the girls would dote on a man of Briareus' hugging capacity! He would be more popular with them than General Sherman. One pair of arms would no sooner Sherman. One pair of arms would no sconer be tired out than another pair could be called into action, and by the time the fiftieth set had done its duty the first would be thoroughly rested and once more ready for service. A man with fifty heads and a hundred arms would be a regular bonanza as a patron of a Troy laundry. Think of his bill for washing collars and cuffs!

The accounts we get about Briaress are not

The accounts we get about Briarcus are not very reliable. They may be classed with the reports about the destruction of the peach crop and the fish stories which bloom in the spring, tra-la-la.

His biographer was a gentleman by the name of Homer, who often lugged into his stories incidents which require the action of a double-jointed credulity to believe. Mr. Homer was one of the editors of the Olympian Gasette, and it is a wonder to me that he was never sued for libel, for he was the Baron Management of his congressional district.

funchausen of his congressional district.

Homer says that when the inferior deities settle down bjected to the enforcement of the prohibi- Unfortution law, and conspired against Jupiter for enforcing it, the latter telegraphed to Bria-reus for assistance, who responded promptly, and soon made the belligerent deities very sick of their contract. But when Briareus elf began to feel his oats, and declare that he was a bigger man than old Jupe, he was promptly jabbed into the calaboose, a dungeon under Mount Etna being used for

Homer says the eruptions of Etna's vol-cano are caused by Briareus trying to break out. There may be some truth in this, as there is some relation between eruptions and breakings-out, and there is certainly some-thing which disturbs Etna's interior depart-

This may seem a funny explanation of a volcanic eruption, but then a volcano is a tava-ble affair. Wm. H. Siviran.

A BOW WITH THE CORONER.

The Jury Sided With the Reporters : the Inquest was Stopped.

MATRIMORIAL OFFERS WHICH BE-SET THE TRAVELER.

King Misse's Regiment of Wivee-The Troubles of Dr. Buchner With a Love-Lorn Princes-A Dunky Sweet Sixteen Who Was Worse Than a Wild Cat.

A cable dispatch the other day said that King Mwanga, the ruler of Uganda, has 1,000 wives. A few years before his death King Mtesa, the father of Mwanga, took a census of his family and found that he had 7,000 wives. It does not follow that the support of this for not follow that the support of this for-midable househould was a heavy drain upon Mtesa's private purse. On the con-trary, the harems of African kings and chiefs, like their cattle kraals, are often a source of wealth. This little incident hows the practical view that Mtesa, for

shows the practical view that Mtesa, for instance, took of matrimony.

About five years ago, Mr. Felkin, one of the Uganda missionaries, complained to Mtesa that his majesty had not kept the missionary larder well stocked, as he had agreed, and the missionaries were actually suffering for food. A happy thought struck the King. He gave an order to an attendant, and in a few minutes eighteen huxon young women came. utes eighteen buxom young women came marching in with big baskets of bananas on their heads.

on their heads.

"Take these women for your wives," said Mtesa. "They will dig in your garden, raise your food and cook it. Take them and don't bother me any more. Send me the other men and I will give them wives too. Now take your women

Mtess was greatly enraged when the poor missionary ventured to protest against being married in this wholesale fashion. He told Mr. Felkin that he and his fellows might shift for themselves. They had a hard time of it until the King long after became better natured.

In Mtesa's harem was one shrewd and



mate household companions. He survived her several years, and to the day of his death he bitterly mourned her loss. One of his diversions was to drill forty or fifty of

his wives at a time in a few military evolutions. In his earlier years he often put to death inmates of his harem if they gave him the slightest offense. Speke saw a number of these poor women led away to execution.

Not a few explorers and missionaries have been greatly annoyed by African women, who have insisted upon marry-ing them. The fat and ugly sister of the Musta Yanvo, who rules a region that is larger than Germany, fell deeply in love with Dr Buchner, and did not weary of oldering him a big interest in her herds and other belongings, if he would only settle down comfortably it her hut.

ally long ent to Africa specially to pay a long to the Musta

could not run away

from the smitten old lady. Her blandishments, however became intense enough to hasten his departure after he had endured them with the best possible grace for several

with the best possible grace for several months.

Serpa Pinto's adventure with the daughter of a king of the Ambuellas is an amusing specimen of the strange experiences that befall the African traveler. This "attractive little creature," as the explorer calls her, had never seen a white man before in her island home on the Cubanqui, and Pinto unwittingly inspired her with a deep interest. She made desperate love to him and though she was only sweet sixteen, Pinto says she inspired him with more fear than the wildest of wild cats. Her elder sister ably abetted the little girl's tender designs and was very indignant because Pinto was so cold and unfeeling. She wanted to know in the shrillest of tones if there were any prettier girls in the country he came from and what sort of a man he was anyhow. One evening the two young women entered his hut and declined to leave it until they were coaxed away by the wife of one of Serpa Pinto's porters, who declared the white man was her husband.

Many African chiefs are apt to think that white travelers who wander through their country without even so much as one wife in their train are very suspicious characters and need to be watched closely to prevent them from running off with the royal harem. They frequently offer to solece the loneliness of their visitors by presenting them with one or more wives. Dr. Barth, after traveling for five years in Africa, expressed the opinion into explorers should take their wives would respect them more and they would get along better. He said the only thing about him that really excited suspicion was the fact that he was a hachelor.

Dr. Livingstone used to say that wonder the native many the native palm.

and in fact austere in their habits, and by declining to mingle familiarly with their employees and the people generally they have secured a degree of respect and influence they could not otherwise possess.

The Rev. Mr. Hare, who for several years has been a missionary on the great Lake Tanganyika, found a while ago on the southern coast a flourishing tribe whose ruler was a woman. Everywhere she went she was attended by fifty ladies in waiting. Bhe was a good-looking negrees about forty years old, and was so favorably impressed with the first white man she had seen that she insisted that he must settle down in her chief town and grow up with the country. She told him she would give him plenty of land, would build a house for him, and that he could lead there an idle and a happy life. It was with some difficulty that the good man convinced Queen Mwema that Mra. Hare had prior claims on him. She let him go at last after he had promised to send some missionaries to add importance to her little capital.

The traveler, Cameron, says that the

tance to her intercapital.
The traveler, Cameron,
says that the
half-dozen wives
of King Russuna on the Upper Congo

men he saw in Africa. A picture of one of them is

presented in this article. presented in this article.

Many people may imagine when they read that Stanley's perilous expedition down the Congo and many other important exploring parties were accompanied by quite a large number of women that they were a source of weakness. On the contrary, they add strength to the expedition. A carrier who has his wife with him seldom runs away. Explorers testify also that the women carry loads nearly as heavy as those of the men, that they bear their burdens more cheerfully, wash and cook better and work for less pay than the men. Savage Africa folpay than the men. Savage Africa fol-lows our noble example in discriminating lows our noble example in discriminating against women in the matter of wages.

It was a pleasant little peculiarity of Livingstone that he usually referred to African women in his writings as "ladles." He and other explorers testify to the fact that among many tribes, especially on the great interior plateau of Africa, the men exhibit much affection for their women. Livingstone tells, for instance, of young married couples standing lovingly in their doorways with their ing lovingly in their doorways with their arms around each other. Schweinfurth, who introduced to us the red-skinned

who introduced to us the red-skinned Nyam Nyams, says that though they are among the bravest and proudest of the tribes of Africa, they will yet, if any of their women are captured by an enemy, make any sacrifice and incur any disgrace to get them back again. The inferior West-coast negroes, on the other hand, appear to know neither love nor jealousy. Mr. J. Manteiro, who lived among them for years in Angola, says that he never saw a negro there manifest the least tenderness toward a negrees or give or receive any negro there manifest the least tenderness toward a negress or give or receive any careas that would indicate the alightest loving regard on either side.

Of course, as in all savage lands, the women of Africa do the hard work of the fields, while their lords or masters sit in the shade and gossip or go on the hunt or the warpath. Life is a round of hard, unrequited toil for most African women. And yet these merry-hearted creatures forget their hard lot the moment the toils of the day are over and with their male companions they will gather in the moonlight or around big fires and sing and dance out half the night. In the history of Indian wars we often read that the women share in and keenly enjoy the

women share in and keenly enjoy the barbarities inflicted by the men; but the women of Africa seldom figure as aggressors in any of the tales of tribal warfare or savage cruelty. It is a strange fact indeed that in some large districts of Africa while war is going on the women on both sides pass freely and unmolested through the enemy's country to peaceably exchange their humble wares in the accustomed markets.

C. C. Adams.

FOOD SUPPLY OF PARIS.

Four Thousand Tons of Horse, Mule and Ass Meat Eaten.

The latest annual report on the food supply of the population of Paris presents some points of general interest. On the average it appears that every inhabitant of the French capital ate rather more than half a pound of butcher; west a day during the appears that every inhabitant of the French capital ate rather more than half a pound of butcher's meat a day during the past year, and in addition to this a daily ration of some five or six ounces of other descriptions of animal food, including fish, poultry, and game, butter, cheese, and eggs. The average is, we believe, appreciably below that of London; but it is, nevertheless, a fairly adequate allowance. Perhaps the most curious item in the annual bill of fare of the Parisians is that which informs us that last year they consumed no less than four thousand tons of "horse, mule, and ass meat." This is nearly nine million pounds, and represents rather more than nine days' supply of "butchers" meat to the entire population of the capital. Every year that has passed since the great siege of 1871 hippophagy has been increasing in Paris, and there appears every likelihood of a continuous increase in the consumption of this class of viands. Possibly not all the horses that are killed in London streets go to feed the cats and dogs, but in spite of several efforts to introduce horse beef as an article of diet we have never taken kindly to it. In sausages, German saveloys, and in one or two other forms, horse is no doubt eaten here; but if so, it is certainly only because we do not know it.—Dublin Nation.

## A DREAM.

That is, if you care to hear about it," he said; "you'll think it is quit abourd, 'twas so very queer."

"Do tell me, I really am fond of dreams, Although I have very few; A dream very often a warning seems," She said; "was it all about you?"

"Well, hardly upon me were bent All eyes, but I haughtily carried My head quite high, for I dreamt I went Down the sisle of a church to be married

"The wedding-march pealed out clear and louid
And flowers sweet and rare,
Low trampled by the curious crowd,
With periume filled the sir. "There shyly walking by my side,
The swortest girl I knew,
Was soon to be my own dear bride;
How queer, that girl was you!" 'Me?" and her eyes so bright and clear, She skyly valled from view; 'I don't think it so very queer, You know some dreams come true."

—Boston Budge

## HARVARD GYMNASIUM

MODERN COLLEGIATE METHODS OF PHYSICAL TRAINING.

Dr. Sargent's Career and His Work in This Country—The Hemonway Gift to Har-vard—Interest in Athletic Sports—Wen-dell Baker's Great Series of Records.

[Copyrighted, 1887.]



others, and used the gymnasium at odd times by himself. One day he accidentally broke a piece of apparatus, and in accordance with the rules was promptly expelled from the club.

The lad is now Dr. Dudley A. Sargent, director of the Hemenway Gymnasium and professor of physical training at Harvard University. The accident and its result supplied the impetus which has made him the leading gymnasium director of the United States and revolutionized the entire system of physical training throughout the country. Piqued at the expulsion from his club, young Sargent gathered together some pieces of simple apparatus in a barn and set himself at regular and vigorous practice. When the club gave an exhibition, a few weeks later, he waited till the members had finished their display, and then stepped forward and easily surpassed their most striking feats. This gained for him applause at home and a reputation outside of Belfast, so that a little later he became the gymnastic instructor at Bowdoin College, fitting himself meanwhile, with a private tutor, to enter college as a student. While at Bowdoin, where he was graduated with honor in 1875, he laid a substantial foundation for the spe-cial work to which his life is devoted. In 1872 he was invited to assume charge of the gymnasium at Yale College and for three years lived the triple existence of a hardworking student, and of instructor in the gymnasiums of Bowdoin College at Brunswick, Me., and Yale College at New Haven, Conn. He then entered the Yale Medical School, from which he was graduated in 1878. While at New Haven he saw the imperfections in the old system of gymnastic training, and set himself the task of evolving something better. Young men were then trained in groups. Apparatus was provided and the men were required to adjust themselves to it. The result was sometimes a high degree of physical development. Often no benefit was gained, while in some cases serious injury resulted from over-exertion. Dr. Sargent conceived and developed the idea of individualism in physical culture. He introduced examinations to discover wherein each one was deficient, and arranged the apparatus and exercises to develop that part or function. The new idea involved a rev-

olution. Dr. Sargent laid the subject before the faculty of Yale College, and proposed to introduce the system at New Haven. It was favorably reported on by the commttee appointed to investigate it, but the conservative element prevailed, and Yale rejected the greatest opportunity she ever enjoyed for becoming a pioneer in the development of the body. A year later Dr. Sargent established

meeting are no more shocking to sensitive nerves than is a football match, which the fair ones enjoy with special relish.

Records are broken at almost every one of these athletic meetings. It is not often, however, that one man gains a series of records like those made by Mr. Wendell Baker in the spring and summer of 1886. On May 22 he established as the world's amateur running records 11 1-5 seconds for 110 yards and 13 seconds for 130 yards. On June 14 he made 220 yards in 22 seconds, a world's amateur record, and 180 yards in 18 seconds, a world's record. On June 19 he made 125 yards in 12 3-5 seconds, a world's amateur record. On July 1 he A year later Dr. Sargent established the Fifth-avenue Gymnasium, in New York, on the present site of the Madison-square Theatre, and put his new idea into practical use, considering it at that time only as a therapeutic agent for the cure of local defects. In September, 1879, he accepted an appointment as director of the new Hemenway Gymnasium, and assistant professor of physical training at Harvard University, Cambridge. Here the new system found its full scope and speedily proved its value.

New apparatus was invented and the old familiar appli ances were improved to conform to higher re-



broke two world's records, making 80 yards in 8 seconds and 440 yards in 47‡ seconds, besides es-

ball, baseball, tennis
and other outdoorsports of Harvard
I do not now write. They were never
better managed or more popular than
to-day. And there has never been a better set of men, physically or mentally,
engaged in them. The high condition of
athletic interests at Harvard, the great
advance in the average physical strength
of the students and the growing interest
in the development of the body for the
sake of accomplishing the best work in
all departments of human activity, are
very largely due to the originality, energy
and popularity of the professor of physical training.

THE U. S. SENATE.

in total strength than the best man in 1880. It is not required that students shall have the measurements taken or do any work at all in the gymnasium. About eighty-five per cent. of them, however, took the measurement last year, and the proportion is constantly rising.

Dr. Sargent, who is responsible for the system of gymnastics used in a large majority of the best gymnasiums in this country, is a man of compact figure, five feet eight inches in height, weighing 170 pounds, having dark hair and brown eyes, and enjoying perfect health. He is too busy in his office to do much in the gymnasium, but he is always sufficiently in training to illustrate on the bars or rings any feat of physical prowess which one of the students is called on to perform. He is quiet and unassuming in manner, a tremendous worker, and has the confidence of the students to a high degree. He is thirty-eight years old, married, and has one son.

The Hemenway Gymnasium, which is the centre of the athletic interest at Harvard, is, without doubt, the most perfect of its kind in any educa-SOME INSTANCES OF HEREDITY IN STATESMANSHIP.

Accidental Senators Who Made Their Mark-The Busiest Day of Walter T. Colquitt's Life-Ex-Senators Who Have Been asseted to the House of Representatives.

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The assertion is frequently made that the Senate of the past quarter of a cen-tury, collectively considered, has not equaled in ability and statesmanship that of the ante-bellum period, and that lat-terly its personnel has been vastly in-

vard, is, without doubt, the most perfect of its kind in any educational institution in the country. It is the result of a gift of \$110,000 from Mr. Augustus Hemenway, of Boston, a graduate of the Harvard class of 1876. Its

first-floor contains dressing-rooms, bath and toilet-rooms, the office and an arm-

bath to make it complete—a want that there is already a promising movement

to supply.

The Harvard Athletic Association,

fashion, and always crowded with the

students and their friends from Cam-bridge, Boston and more distant points. Hundreds of ladies are present at two of

enthusiastic as the students themselves over the wrestling, high kicking, the jumping and the tug-of-war. At one of

the meetings, when sparring is a leading attraction, ladies are not admitted. They do not understand why, nor does anybody else. The sports at this tabooed meeting are no more shocking to sensitive

the rapidly-growing

interest in physical training, is thirteen

years old. Field meet-

ings are held in the

nasium.The

great hall is fringed

with rough seats for

these meet-ings, rising

spring and fall for out-

door games and

uate of the Harvard class of 1876. Its full cost, including apparatus, was \$160,-000, and it was completed in 1879. It occupies a commanding location at the west of Memorial Hall, and is separated by a broad street from the college yard. It is built of brick, with sandstone trimmings, and is of colonial style of architecture. The main hall is a stately room, 113 by 85 feet, rising to the heavy timbered roof, and lighted by handsome windows at each end. The inside walls are finished in red and yellow brick, and the woodwork is in hard pine. A gallery around the main hall contains the running track five feet wide. An iron frame-work arranged with sliding jority, and that by the merest accident, but having acquitted himself with great to 1851. the running track five feet wide. An iron frame-work arranged with sliding eye-bolts and beams, so that the swinging apparatus can be suspended from any point, is securely bolted to the roof timbers. On the second-floor is the ability, was re-elected with little if any opposition.

The instances of heredity in senatorships are few. Richard H. Bayard, of Delaware, who was chosen to succeed Senator Arnold Naudain in 1836, was the father of James A. Bayard, who succeeded John



fore has furnished three successive generations to the Senate. Walter T. Colquitt, of Georgia, who was chosen senator in 1843 to succeed Alfred Cuthburt, is the father of the present senator, Alfred H. Colquitt. He was both a lawyer and divine of great eminence and oratorical reputation. It is historical in Georgia that Walter

T. Colquitt performed at least one day's work, the extent of which has never been equaled, much less excelled. He de-fended a man tried in the court for murder, and cleared his client before the din-ner hour arrived. After dinner, being a candidate for presidential elector, he made a political speech of two hours' duration, and left the hustings to perform a marriage ceremony. After supper he preached a sermon in church, and was on his way home, he was assaulted by a noted bully of whom everybody was afraid, whose testimony he had fiercely rasped in the murder trial of the morn-ing. His friends came to his rescue, but nothing would satisfy him but to fight out the battle with fisticuss, intimating

nothing would satisfy him but to fight out the battle with fisticus. Intimating that if the man whipped him in a fair fight it would be entirely satisfactory. He thrashed the bully to his heart's content, and afterward any boy of twelve years of age could have made the russian run. Both father and son were graduated from Princeton College.

Henry Dodge, who entered the Senate from Wisconsin on June 8, 1848, pending the Thirtieth Congress, was the father of Augustus C. Dodge, of Iowa, who was seated December 4, of the same year. The first term of Henry Dodge ended March 3, 1851, and the first term of Augustus C. Dodge expired March 3, 1849. Both were re-elected for the six-years term, ending respectively March 3, 1857, and March 3, 1855, so that both father and son served in the Senate together during a part of the Thirtieth and the whole of the Thirty-first, Thirty-second and Thirty-third Congresses, the father, during a part of the Thirtieth and the whole of the Thirty-first, Thirty-second and Thirty-third Congresses, the father, however, remaining two years longer—throughout the Thirty-fourth Congress. Both are dead. General James Shields represented Illinois in the Senate during the Thirty-first, Thirty-second and Thirty-third Congresses, from 1849 to 1855; Minnesota during a portion of the Thirty-fifth Congress, 1858-59, and Missouri during a portion of the Fortieth Congress, from January to March, 1879. His was the sole instance of serving as senator from more than one State. There are several instances, however, where members of the House were subsequently chosen senators from other States. Henry Livingston was a member from New York and a senator from Louisana; General Edward D. Baker, a member from Illinois

chosen senators from other States, henry Livingston was a member from New York and a senator from Louisana; General Edward D. Baker, a member from Illinois and a senator from Oregon; Charles Durkee, a member from Indiana and senator from Wisconsin, and Charles H. Van Wyck, a member from New York and senator from Nebraska.

Various ex-senators have subsequently served in the House, among them John Quincy' Adams, the only ex-President who re-entered the legislative branch; Morton S. Wilkinson, of Minnesota; William Pitt Kellogg, of Louisiana, and James W. Nesmith, of Oregon. A case of heredity of the third generation of service in the House somewhat similar to the senatorial Bayards, of Delaware, occurs in the election of T. L. Thompson, of California, to the Fiftieth Congress. His grandfather and father were both representatives in Congress from Virginia, the grandfather, Philip R. Thompson, from 1801 to 1807, and the father, Robert A. Thompson, from 1847 to 1849. The instance, however, of father and son serving in the same body at the same time is confined to the Senators Dodge, but father and son have frequently served in the House at different periods. Charles Voorhees, the present delegate in Congress from Washington Territory, is the son of Senator Daniel W. Voorhees, of Indiana. Barclay Henley, of California, a member of the Porty-ninth Congress, is the son of Thomas J. Henley, of Indiana, who served three terms in the House, from 1843 to 1849.

Referring to "accidental" senators it is related that when James W. Nesmith, of Oregon, quite a character in his way, was

chosen to the Senate for the six-term commencing March 4, 1861, to ceed Joseph Lane, he assumed his in a silence which he failed to brea in a silence which he failed to break for more than a year thereafter. During the discussion attending the outbreak of the civil war and the stirring events of that period, Senator Nesmith had noting to say in the Senate, which was somewhat surprising because his powers of oratory were of no mean order. Finally a colleague railled him severely because of his reticence and asked him to suplain its meaning.

"The fact is," replied Nesmith, in a naif apologetic way, "I was in a damiuring the first six months, wondering how I ever got into the Senate, and ainos that time I have been made speechless by wondering how all the other fellows got here."

of the ante-bellum period, and that latterly its personnel has been vastly inferior in the elements of oratory and individual greatness. To a certain extent, perhaps, this proposition is well grounded, but it must be remembered that in the earlier days of the republic the office sought the man to a much wider scope than in times comparatively recent. The methods of American politics have changed in the meantime, and local interests have become so diversified through the enormous growth of the country that the ancient landmarks have necessarily been largely disturbed.

Before the war accidental senators were few and far between; but occasionally an instance is recorded of an accidental senator proving himself equal to his high position. Bedford Brown, of North Carolina, was elected to the Senate in 1829 by one majority, and that by the merest accident, but having acquitted himself with great ability, was re-elected with little if any

Truman Smith, of Connecticut, born in 1791, was, at the time of his death—some two years since—the oldest living senator. He served from 1849 to 1855. William M. Gwinn, who was senator from California from 1849 to 1861, was born in 1805 and passed the winter of 1885-'86 at Washington, hale and hearty at the age of eighty years. Upon adjournment of the first session of the Forty-ninth Congress he left Washington for New York en route to San Francisco, where he suddenly expired at the New York Hotel. At the time of his death he was junior in age only to Simon Cameron, and in senatorial service to Messrs. Cameron, Hunter, Jefferson Davis and Hannibal Hamlin.

J. J. Noah. Truman Smith, of Connecticut, born

CAPTAIN STOVER'S SNAKE FARM. He Raises Rattlers and Other Reptiles for

Market and Finds it Pays. Your correspondent last Sunday visited the celebrated snake farm—"Rattlesnake Forty"-near Galton, Ill., owned and managed by Captain Dan Stover and wife, and aged by Captain Dain Stover and wire, and assisted by William Dunn, agent at the Illi-nois Central depot. It might be surmised that the breeding and propagation of rattle-snakes and other reptiles was not only a dangerous but unpleasant occupation. How-ever, these poor but honest people have learned that there is money in snakes, and last year they cleared almost enough from their sales to pay the expenses of the family of four.

last year they cleared almost enough from their sales to pay the expenses of the family of four.

"Who buy rattlesnakes, and what on earth do they want with them?" you ask. Why, for the foil. A firm in Philadelphia pays a good price for every rattlesnake delivered at the laboratory. Mr. Stover has contracted with the firm to furnish them 250 of that species during the present season at \$2.25 each, none to measure less than four feet in length, or to be less than six years of age. The older the snake the better and stronger the oil.

Sunday the sun shone out bright and warm, which brought out the snakes in large numbers to bask in the warm rays, and as Mr. Stover said, would be a good day to take a stroll over "Rattlesnake Forty." Procuring a goodletout stick and donning a heavy pair of boots, your correspondent joined Stover and Dunn in the hunt. Dunn is a comparatively new man in the snake business, and has had several narrow escapes from being bitten by the deadly reptiles, but he is learning fast. To show us how easy it is to kill snake, he picked up a blue racer by the tail, that was lying coiled up in the sunlight, in a half comatose condition, and giving it a couple of whirls over his head in a lightning manner, he cracked it like a whip, causing its head to part from its body and spin through the air. Proceeding a little further, we came to "the mounds," little raised places on the snake farm, where the snakes burrow in winter and breed in summer. There are thirty-seven of these mounds on the farm, and on the south side of one of the largest of these, where they could get the full benefit of the sun, lay coiled up soundly saleep these, where they could get the full benefit of the sun, lay coiled up soundly salesp forty-three large rattlesnakes, seven black snakes and numerous other smaller reptiles, not one of which seemed to recognize our presence. Stoyer and Dunn do not kill off the whole grow rattle but leave

presence. Stover and Dunn do not kill off the whole crop yearly, but leave many for breedingpurposes.

"Why." said the former, "that mound there contains probably a dozen nests of eggs and each nest at least ten eggs. I have found nests that contained as high as eighteen young rattlers, the largest not over two nests that contained as high as eighteen young rattlers, the largest not over two inches in length. Their eggs are about the size of those of a partridge, but have a soft shell. The farm is a tract of virgin prairie, and has never seen a plow, and Dan says in summer its native grass is very high, rendering it an excellent place for the reptiles to hide in."

After retiring to the house the two snake-breeders exhibited a string of rattles several feet in length, which they captured last summer, the whole footing up 768 rattles.

Some of the snakes possessed twenty-five rattles and a button, each rattle counting a year to its age and the button a fraction of a year.

Mrs. Stover also had in a hore

year to its age and the button a fraction of a year.

Mrs. Stover also had in a box of sawdust under a cook stove twenty-seven rattleanake eggs, which, she said, would begin to hatch in a few days, after which event the children would be kept busy catching flies to feed the tiny pets.

Stover and Dunn have several pet rattlers around the house, which are as harmless as kittens, made so by their poison sac having been removed from the roofs of their mouths and their fangs clipped with pincers, all this being done while the snakes were under the influence of chloroform. They have no equal as mice exterminators, and in the summer keep the place free from bugs, flies and bad boys.

Besides supplying the Philadelphia firm with snakes for their use, the breeders have filled orders for different parties in all parts of the country, mostly physicians. A doctor in St. Louis took several live pairs last summer at \$5 per pair.—Atlanta Constitution.

FIRE DAMAGES.

The Aggregate of Losses in the United States and Canada for April.

The aggregate estimated losses by fire in the United States and Canada for the month of April, according to the figures of the New York Commercial Bulletin, a reliable authority on fire statistics, foot up a total of \$11,750,000, which is \$1,300,000 more than those of March, and gives a total for the first four months of the year of \$41,250,000. The Bulletin says: "At this rate the losses for the year bid fair to exceed those of 1886 by more than seven millions. This is certainly an abnormal increase, and it is earnestly to be hoped that the record for the remaining months may give a more favorable showing. The number of large firm shows no indication of decrease, but rather the contrary. Nearly twenty per centre of the entire number are from \$50,000 upward, and one exceptional case, that of the Hotel del Monte, in Monters (Cal., reaches the respectable figure \$1,500,000. Even without this loss the average for the month would be an outlonally high; and somehow there is always an 'if or 'but' in nearly over month, which plays and hoped for."

It is strange that the potters do not seem to the contrary that is hoped for." The aggregate estimated losses by fire